

No. 3309

Def. Doc. #2639

Exh. No. 3309

EXCERPT FROM VA 17.

"The Contents of Talks between Mr. Max Pestalozzi,
Representative to Japan of the International
Commission of the International Red Cross Society,
and Representatives of Prisoners of War."

I certify that the document entitled as above is a true and
correct copy of the document on file at this Bureau.

Date: 22nd September, 1947

(signed) IIDA, Yukio (seal)
Acting Chief of the POW
Information Bureau.

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The Contents of Talks between Mr. Max Pestalozzi, Representative to Japan of the International Commission of the International Red Cross Society, and Representatives of Prisoners of War.

Place: in the room of the Main Camp Commandant of the War Prisoners Internment Camp of Korea.

Time and Date: At 11 A.M. on November 15, 1943 (Showa 18)

Attendants: Representative of the Red Cross Society,

Mr. Max Pestalozzi.

Representatives of Prisoners of War,

Lieutenant Colonel Ellington (the Second Battalion Commander of the Royal Regiment),

Lieutenant Colonel Cardew,

Captain Fuke and Captain Salipan.

Others: Chief of the Medical Department, Shindo,

Staff-officer Yoshida,

Captain Sasaki,

MP Lt. Ogawa,

Interpreter Oda,

Main Camp commandant Noguchi,

The First Branch Camp Commandant, and

other members of the Camp.

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(After everyone having introduced himself)

Mr. Pestalozzi: As a representative of the Red Cross, Mr. Paraviccini visited here last year, and in the same capacity I have come here this year. As I shall ask you a few questions, will you answer them frankly? First, have you received comfort goods or relief supplies from the Red Cross Society?

Lt. Col. Ellington: Yes, we are grateful to get a lot of comfort goods from your society. Up to now, each of us received six parcels of comfort goods.

Mr. Pestalozzi: Is there any remainder of them?

Lt. Col. Ellington: No, but we still have some canned relief supplies.

(Thereupon Camp Commandant Noguchi explains of Red Cross comfort parcels and relief supplies.)

Mr. Pestalozzi: Cargoes of parcels and supplies have recently arrived at Yokohama, so within a few months such things will reach here, too, I suppose. We wish to send you even a part of them for Christmas. Is there anything you want specially as relief supplies --- for instance: --- medicines, vitamins, clothing and so on?

Lt. Col. Ellington: First of all we want food, and then warm clothing.

Mr. Pestalozzi: Aren't you supplied with clothing by Japanese forces?

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Lt. Col. Ellington: We are supplied with ordinary clothing, but want woolen waistcoats and hoods (caps) for protection against the cold. Ten to twelve persons do not have these hoods (caps). We want woolen mufflers, too. We have sufficient shoes.

(Hereupon Camp Commandant Noguchi explains about such articles.)

We want slippers, too.

Mr. Pestalozzi: How about recreations?

Lt. Col. Ellington: We want chiefly mental amusement, --- namely, instructive or scientific books. Japanese people are kind enough to let us read various books. Especially the Y.M.C.A. kindly lends us many books, but they are mostly novels; so, if possible, we want scientific books as I have just said. Of course, we will pay the price. In spring, summer, and autumn, we succeeded in managing an "officers' farm" headed by Lt. Col. Cardew. But as we can't till the soil in winter, we want carpenters' tools for officers. Whatever tools will do.

Mr. Pestalozzi: Anything else?

Lt. Col. Ellington: To other ranks cards were given by the Y.M.C.A., but they have become worn-out. Officers are allowed to buy them.

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Mr. Pestalozzi: How about the condition of mail?

It. Col. Ellington: Almost all British prisoners have received letters from home. Those who did not get any letter from their wives or children have been allowed with special consideration to write to their homes. For this they are thankful. Letters from India and Australia have not yet reached here.

Mr. Pestalozzi: The exchange steamer has recently returned, so lots of mail matters have arrived, I suppose. Especially from India and Australia, too.

It. Col. Ellington: An Australian Red Cross representative called Philips is in this camp. He is worried about his own qualification (position). Will you help him in some way?

Mr. Pestalozzi: I have once heard about him, but I can not tell you anything concrete just now. As far as I know, he is granted the rank of Captain. If so, he will be regarded as a service man.

Captain Hague: That is so in peace time or during hostilities, but the question is different after he was taken prisoner.

Mr. Pestalozzi: Anyhow, after I go back to Tokyo and investigate it again, I will inform you about it. Next, what is the general condition of this camp?

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Lt. Col. Ellington: We are being treated well. It is not flattery but Camp Commandant Noguchi is always looking after the needs of the prisoners of war, and is very just and upright. He is doing all he can for us. All prisoners respect him. Next I hope that on coming Christmas those prisoners sent out from here to various other places will be able to have spiritual rites.

Camp Commandant Noguchi: I intend to have those who are in Korea hold such rites in each camp. I cannot tell you with accuracy whether those who were transferred to Japan proper can do so, but I suppose they will probably have similar events.

Lt. Col. Cardew: Here are two officers who are more than fifty years old. Myself and Captain Geldard. Let me know whether or not you have any plan for transferring those persons to a special camp where climate is mild and living conditions are better?

Mr. Pestalozzi: I cannot give a concrete explanation, but so far as I know, we have not. However I will inform you of it after I returned to Tokyo and investigated.

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Camp Commander Noguchi: We are giving special protection to them by supplying them with additional blankets.

The Contents of Talks between Pestalozzi and Philips (Australian Red Cross Representative) during the Former's Visit.

Mr. Pestalozzi: I have already heard of you. If there is anything I can do for you, I will inform you of it.

Philips: Thank you. We are being treated well, but if I am likely to be allowed to go home, help me so.

Mr. Pestalozzi: What is your health condition?

Philips: Very well, but I am worried because I have not heard from home.

Mr. Pestalozzi: I am sure you will hear before long.

The Contents of Talks between Pestalozzi and Captain Faucet

Captain Faucet: I am also very much concerned about letters.

Mr. Pestalozzi: Don't worry yourself for you will have them by Christmas, I suppose.

Captain Faucet: Thank you.